

UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

(2)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

1a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified		1b. RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS	
2a. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY		3. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF REPORT Restricted Unlimited	
AD-A216 518		5. MONITORING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S) AFOSR-IR- 89 - 1725	
6a. NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION Department of Chemistry University of Colorado	6b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable)	7a. NAME OF MONITORING ORGANIZATION AFOSR/NC	
6c. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code) Boulder, CO 80309		7b. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code) Bldg. 410 Bolling AFB, D.C. 20332-6448	
8a. NAME OF FUNDING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION AFOSR	8b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable) NC	9. PROCUREMENT INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AFOSR-84-0210	
8c. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code) Bldg. 410 Bolling AFB, D.C. 20332-6448		10. SOURCE OF FUNDING NOS.	
11. TITLE (Include Security Classification) Laser Studies of Ion Collision Dynamics		PROGRAM ELEMENT NO. 61102F	TASK NO. 2917
		TASK NO. A2	WORK UNIT NO.
PERSONAL AUTHOR(S) Stephen R. Leone			
12. TYPE OF REPORT FINAL	13b. TIME COVERED FROM TO	14. DATE OF REPORT (Yr., Mo., Day) 1989 12 14	15. PAGE COUNT
16. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION			
17. COSATI CODES		18. SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)	
FIELD	GROUP	SUB. GR.	
19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)			
<p>DTIC ELECTE JAN 05 1990 S D^{CS} D</p> <p>90 01 04 042</p>			
20. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRACT CLASSIFIED/UNLIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> SAME AS RPT. <input type="checkbox"/> DTIC USERS <input type="checkbox"/>		21. ABSTRACT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	
22a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL LEE E. MYERS, Capt, USAF		22b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) (202) 767-4963	22c. OFFICE SYMBOL NC

AFOSR-IR. 89-1780

Interim Status Report

DOD University Research Instrumentation Program

LASER STUDIES OF ION COLLISION DYNAMICS

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Chemical and Atmospheric Sciences
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Grant No. AFOSR-84-0210

Start Date: July 15, 1984

Amount: \$102,500

Cost Sharing: \$5,000

Accession For	
NTIS CRA&I	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>
DTIC TAB	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unannounced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Justification	
By	
Distribution /	
Availability Codes	
Dist	Avail and/or Special
A-1	

Interim Report

The cw ring dye laser system specified in this grant was purchased and fully installed and operational in December 1984. The items of equipment procured were a Coherent Radiation model Innova 20 argon ion laser, a Coherent Radiation model CR699-21 ring dye laser, and a Coherent Radiation model 240PP-2 spectrum analyzer. The acquisition cost of all the items for the total bid package required the full \$102,500, FOB Boulder and completely installed. Coherent Radiation did negotiate to give a price reduction in the amount of three per cent over their list prices. However, because of price increases it was not possible to obtain the wavemeter which was specified in the original grant proposal as part of these instrumentation funds.

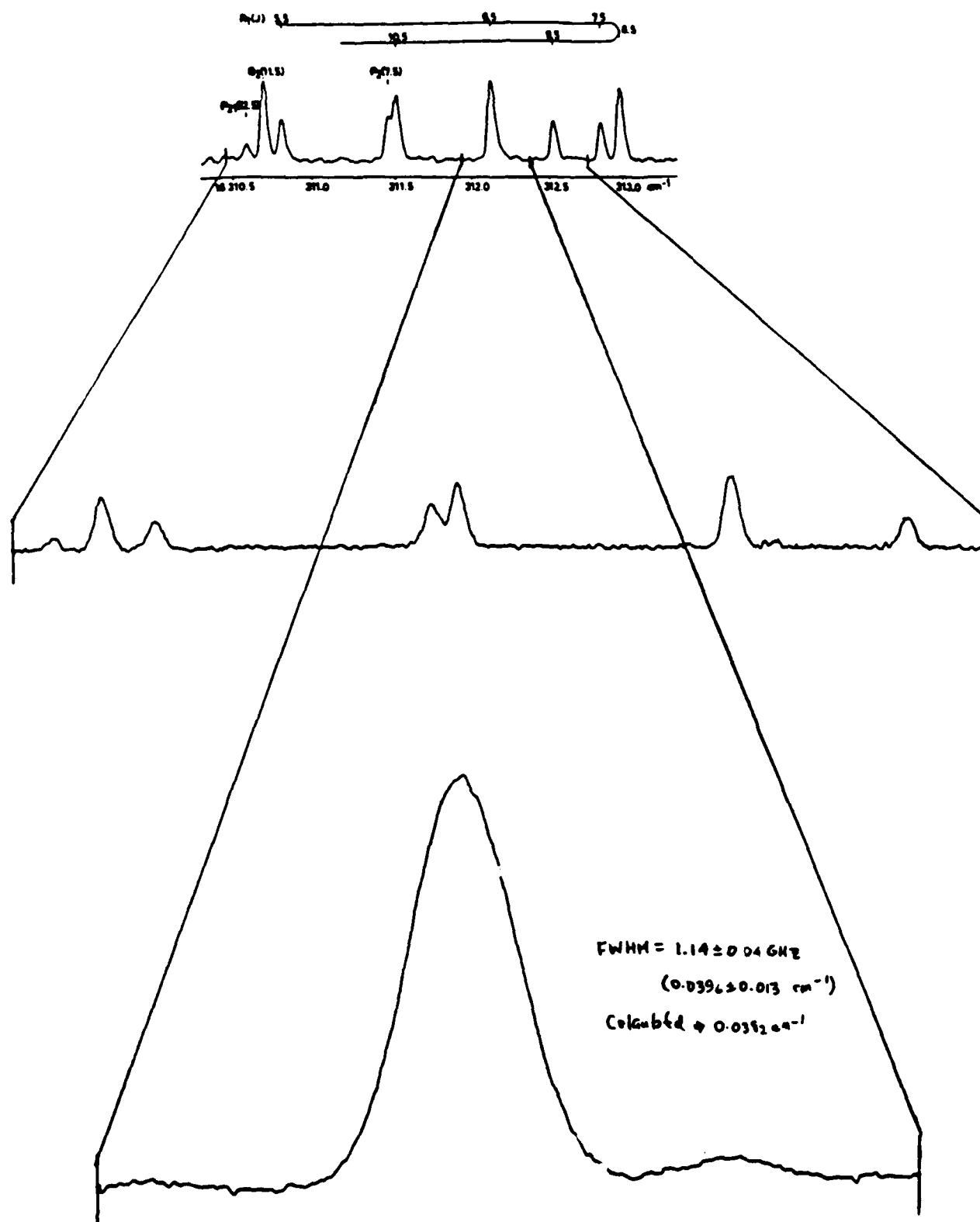
The University of Colorado provided the cost of the installation of the 480 V power for the laser system. This cost also exceeded the original estimate of \$5,000 by a few thousand dollars, in spite of the fact that a custom-manufactured transformer and panel were donated by the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics. The additional cost was generously absorbed by the University.

The new laser system has been successfully coupled to the flow-drift apparatus, and signals of excellent quality and signal-to-noise have already been obtained. A detailed discussion of the experimental results thus far were incorporated into the major renewal proposal recently submitted to AFOSR on this work. Here only a brief summary of that discussion will be included.

The enclosed figure shows a narrow slice of the laser-induced fluorescence spectrum for the $N_2^+(A^2\Pi_u - X^2\Sigma_g^+)$ transition obtained in preliminary experiments at thermal energy with this newly coupled laser system. The (4,0) transition is excited and the (4,1) fluorescence is

monitored. The signal-to-noise is excellent, even though a number of experimental parameters have not yet been optimized. The upper portion of the figure shows a published spectrum in the same region for comparison (from T. A. Miller, T. Suzuki, and E. Hirota, J. Chem. Phys. 80, 4671 (1984)). The observed Doppler linewidth (0.0396 cm^{-1}) is in good agreement with the calculated Doppler width (0.0382 cm^{-1}). It is clear that a tremendous improvement has already been achieved over our previous capabilities with the pulsed laser detection, and that the ultimate sensitivity will be exceptional.

Plans are now being made to begin measurements in the well-characterized electric field drift section of the flow tube, as outlined in more detail in the renewal proposal document.



Portion of laser-induced fluorescence spectrum of the $\text{N}_2^+(\text{A}^2\Pi_u - \text{X}^2\Sigma_g^+)$ system near the R_1 bandhead. Top spectrum is from Miller, et al.; middle and bottom spectra represent recent results from our laboratory.